

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for establishing sessions in a network comprising a user entity, a network control node and a plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information, the method comprising the steps of  
receiving a session establishing request at the network control node,  
forwarding a policy request message from the network control node to each network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information which comprise policy information required for the session to be established,  
processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message and sending the policy decision message to the network control node from each of the network nodes having received the policy request message,  
generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages in the network control node, and  
sending the single policy decision message to the user entity.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the network control element is itself a network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the network control element is a network service element serving the user entity.

4. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of selecting the network control element being a network node storing subscriber specific information by a network connection serving element (GGSN) serving the user entity.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein in the selecting step, a default network node storing subscriber specific information is selected.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the single policy decision message comprises an authorization token from each node storing subscriber specific information.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user entity is located in a visited operator domain, and the method further comprising the steps of:

inserting policy information into a session set-up protocol message,  
sending the session set-up protocol message to a network control element in the home domain of the user entity,  
forwarding the policy information to a home subscriber database node,  
extracting an address of a home node storing subscriber specific information of the user entity from the subscriber database node,  
creating home policy information based on the extracted address, and  
forwarding the home policy information to a network control element of the visited network.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the policy information comprises an authentication token, and the home policy information created in the creating step comprises a home Authentication Token.

9. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:  
creating a visited policy information in the network control element of the visited network.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein in the forwarding step, the home policy information is inserted into another session set-up protocol message.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein the session set-up protocol is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the network node storing subscriber specific information is a Policy Control Function (PDF).

13. A system for establishing sessions in a network comprising:  
a user entity;  
a network control node; and  
a plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information,  
wherein the network control node comprises means for receiving a session establishing request, and for forwarding a policy request message to each network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber

specific information comprising policy information required for the session to be established,

the nodes storing subscriber specific information comprise means for processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message and for sending the policy decision message to the network control node, and

the network control node comprises means for generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages, and for sending the single policy decision message to the user entity.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the network control element is itself a network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information.

15. The system according to claim 13, wherein the network control element is a network service element serving the user entity.

16. The system according to claim 14, further comprising a network connection serving element (GGSN) serving the user entity, wherein the network connection serving element comprises means for selecting the network control element being one of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information.

17. The system according to claim 13, further comprising a network connection serving element (GGSN) serving the user entity, wherein the

network control element is one of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information and is a default network node to be contacted by the network connection serving element.

18. The system according to claim 13, wherein the single policy decision message comprises an authorization token from each node storing subscriber specific information.

19. The system according to claim 13, wherein the user entity is located in a visited operator domain, wherein the user entity further comprises means for inserting policy information into a session set-up protocol message, and for sending the session set-up protocol message to a network control element in the home domain of the user entity,

the network control element in the home domain of the user entity comprises means for forwarding the policy information to a home subscriber database node,

the home subscriber database node comprises means for extracting an address of a home node storing subscriber specific information of the user entity,

the network control element in the home domain of the user entity comprises means for creating home policy information based on the extracted address, and for forwarding the home policy information to a network control element of the visited network.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein the policy information comprises an authentication token, and the home policy information created in the network control element in the home domain of the user entity comprises a home Authentication Token.

21. The system according to claim 19, wherein the network control element of the visited network further comprises means for creating a visited policy information.

22. The system according to claim 19, wherein the forwarding means of the network control element in the home domain of the user entity further comprises means for inserting the home policy information into another session set-up protocol message.

23. The system according to claim 19, wherein the session set-up protocol is a SIP protocol.

24. The system according to claim 13, wherein the network node storing subscriber specific information is a Policy Control Function (PDF).